John Reich Journal

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JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues $25.00
Life Membership $625.00

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The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: Brockage of 1831 obverse 7 on one side and an incuse impression of obverse 7 on the other
Photo Courtesy of Henry Hilgard.

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Editors' Comments

Welcome to the current issue of The John Reich Journal. We have made it to our 20th volume in our 23rd year of existence. There have been many obstacles to overcome over the last couple of decades to bring you the journal. All have been overcome with the help and dedication of the officers and membership of the society. This being an anniversary, of sorts, gives me pause to remember some of those stories. Please excuse my reminiscences.

My involvement with the society began in 1986, the inaugural year, when Jules Reiver suggested that I "join a new group of collectors dedicated to the study of the bust coinages." His gentle prodding sent me on a mission to find a fellow named Russ Logan to begin my membership in the JRCS. I immediately joined and eagerly awaited my first journal. Dave Davis was the first editor of the journal and I soon received my own copy of volume 1, number 1 of the JRJ. I was hooked! Soon thereafter, I signed up to become a life member of the society. I have eagerly anticipated the arrival of each and every journal since then.

In 1992 editor and president, Dave Davis, decided to give-up the editorship of the journal. Keith Bellman and I decided that we could be the new co-editors of the journal. Boy, were we in for a surprise! We muddled through a few issues with the help of Russ. As many of you know, Russ was one of the founding fathers of the organization and a driving force for many years. His premature death in 2002 dealt the organization quite a blow. It took us a couple of years to overcome the void left by his passing.

Two other of the founding fathers, Dave Davis and John McCloskey have taken a lesser role in running the organization in the last few years. They were tireless workers for the club for many years after organizing the club. Newer members have stepped up to take their place as officers and volunteers for JRCS. Jules Reiver, another of the founders and namesake of our literary award, passed in 2004. He was a great ambassador of the hobby and JRCS in particular. Original officers and founders William Subjack and Allen Lovejoy curtailed their duties to the organization a few years prior. They have all been supplemented by a new group of dedicated collectors and researchers that will carry the organization forward through the ensuing years.

The club decided many years ago to name the literary award voted by the membership each year in honor of Jules Reiver. This coveted award goes to the author of the most popular submission each year as voted by you, the membership. The voting is usually very close to determine the recipient and this year was no exception. We would like to recognize, and congratulate, this year's winner Bill Bugert for his article "Martin Luther Beistle's Bust Half Dollars" which appeared in Volume 19, Issue 1 of the JRJ. Bill will be presented with a plaque commemorating his accomplishment at this year's ANA meeting.

One of the other orders of business before the officers this year will be considering the first nominations for the JRCS Hall of Fame. At last year's ANA meeting we decided to follow the lead of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club and begin a Hall of

Fame for JRCS. A steering committee was selected by the president consisting of John McCloskey (already a member of the LSCC HOF!), Louis Scuderi and Brad Karoleff. We will be accepting nominations from the membership until December 31st of this year for consideration for induction at next year's meeting in Boston. Members interested in nominating someone for the Hall should refer to the publication of the eligibility rules that appeared in Volume 19, Issue 3 of the JRJ. We encourage you to consider nominating exceptional individuals for inclusion as the inaugural class.

There are a couple of research projects currently in progress that need the help of the membership. One of the reasons the JRCS was formed was to facilitate the sharing of information. Jim Koenings is doing research on the 1827 JR2 bust dime. His request for information appears later in this journal. If you have one of these dimes please contact Jim with your information. The other is a new book in process by J.D. Dannreuther on the proof (or specimen) strikes of early United States coins. If you have any coins or information that may help JD in his research you can contact him via email at jdrc@mindspring.com. Please consider sharing your coins or information with the members of the society.

Speaking of sharing information, it is time to compile the early half dollar census for the next journal. Steve Herrman is the census keeper for the half dollars and will be putting together the census for the 1794-1807 half dollars that will appear in the next issue. Please send your information for inclusion as soon as possible.

Now, on to the current issue of the JRJ. In the following pages of this issue you will learn more about a half dime encased in blown glass, brockage errors on Capped Bust halves, survival rates for 1805 half dollars, the bust quarter census, and MORE! Each of these articles will be eligible for the Jules Reiver Literary Award for 2010. If you submit something for publication in the next journal you will also be eligible. Consider sharing something with the membership for the next issue. Until then, enjoy!

Notice: Early Half Dollar (1794-1807) Information is Solicited for inclusion in the next issue of the John Reich Journal.

Please email your complete inventory listing (including duplicates and die states) /or any questions, to

Brad Karoleff at: jrcs19@roadrunner.com

or hard copies to Brad at PO Box 135, Harrison, OH 45030.

Letters To The Editor

John Knabe, after reading about the late die state 1818 O104b in the last issue, sent us images of his coin.

1818

1821

LIBERTY

1818

From the Treasurer

W. David Perkins

JRCS would like to thank Steve Herrman for his ongoing support of JRCS and for his recent donation of $302.50 from the sale of his Autumn 2008 revision of his Auction & Mail Bid Prices Realized (AMBPR) for Bust Half Dollars 1794-1839. For many years Steve has donated $2.50 for each copy sold.

We would also like to thank Dave Rutherford for his ongoing support of JRCS. Dave donates a portion of the subscription price from his Bust Half Dollar Auction Sales and Results website (www.busthalfprices.com).

And thanks to all the members of JRCS for their donations in 2008-9, as well as in prior years. A fair number of members send in their annual membership dues with a little extra marked for a donation. It is always appreciated and helps to keep our club's membership dues at a reasonable level.

Jim Koenings Writes...

Kirk Gorman sent me a couple of sets of scans of 1827 JR-2 dimes. He thought this coin might have belonged to Mike Sherrill or Louis Scuderi. However, when I checked the scans from Mike and from Louis, none of them matched. If someone out there owns this coin, I would like them to come forward, so I can give them proper credit in my book on 1827 JR-2's. You can reach me at bustcoin1@verizon.net . Thanks.

An Expample of "Truly Original Surfaces"

Stephen A. Crain

One of the basic tenets of our hobby has always been that ours is an avocation seemingly dominated by males – older, white males. I have never heard a good explanation for this, but from purely observational and anecdotal evidence, I have always accepted it to be true. Rare, indeed, is the wife or girlfriend who is involved as a truly serious collector of coins. This nearly complete absence of females within our hobby often results in misunderstandings and debates regarding the amount of time devoted to the hobby by the male collector in the household, and the amount of the family budget spent on such specious items.

It was with this basic understanding of the typical family dynamic that I delighted in reading an article by my mentor and good friend Russell J. Logan in the December 1999 **John Reich Journal** (Volume 12/Issue 3, page 24), somewhat whimsically entitled "Slabbing Circa 1840". In his article, Russ related that his wife, Brenda, while not sharing his interest in early Federal coins, had, in fact, been bitten by the collecting bug, preferring instead to collect early American flint glass whale oil lamps. What I found most intriguing was the occasion, albeit rare, when these two collecting hobbies, operating in almost parallel universes, came together, as if to defy the laws of physics, when old glass pieces and old coins occupied the same space at the same time.

In the summer of 1999, Russ called me to say that he and his wife Brenda would be traveling to Maine, and we, of course, made arrangements to meet and discuss our mutual love, the half dimes. In an attempt to spare poor Brenda from endless hours of boring discussion on the minutia of die states of Capped Bust half dimes, I mentioned that there was a world class glass museum no more than fifteen miles from my door, the Jones Glass Museum, which might provide some distraction for Brenda while Russ and I pursued our interest in the baby busties. Much to my surprise, not only was that a brilliant suggestion, but Russ confided that it was the Jones Glass Museum that was responsible for their visit to Maine; Brenda was to attend a week long seminar on early American glass at the museum.

Shortly after their arrival at my home, Russ, Brenda, my daughter Michelle, and myself set out for the Jones Glass Museum to provide some much needed respite from the endless half dime discussion. Upon entering the museum, Russ hastened past the front desk with me in tow, and as if he owned the place, beat a direct path to the second floor, to the very rear, and there, high upon a shelf in a glass display case he pointed to a very rare example of Thomas Cains Phoenix Glass Works blown glassware. And in the clear glass bulb, or knop, in the stem of the glass piece was an encapsulated 1831 Capped Bust half dime! No more than fifteen miles from my very front door, yet Russ traveled nearly 800 miles from Cleveland to point it out to me. Incredible. Not the least bit surprising, knowing Russ, but incredible. As I stretched to see if I could get a better look at the marvelous little encapsulated half dime, Russ commented "Don't bother. It's just an LM-6", an R1 die marriage.

Something changed within me that day, and I became obsessed with the idea that I must one day own such a glass piece, with an encapsulated United States half dime. In addition to collecting the half dimes, themselves, I also actively collect anything related to or made from half dimes, and this seemed a natural addition to my half dime exonumia collection. After reading Russ' article, however, I became somewhat discouraged, learning that there are perhaps only a few dozen such glass pieces known with encapsulated coins. Many such pieces, even of American manufacture, contain foreign coins, with only a select few containing United States coins, although virtually all are of small denominations. During the early nineteenth century, many of the coins in circulation in the United States were of foreign manufacture, so it should not be surprising to find foreign coins contained in American glassware of the period. Brenda added to my anxiety by relating that such glass pieces are not only rare, but are eagerly and actively sought by serious glass collectors, in addition to astute coin collectors. She admonished that even if I were to be successful in locating such a glass piece, I may not be able to outbid other serious collectors. Undaunted, I began what was to become a decade long search for a glass piece with an encapsulated United States half dime.

In September of 2008, I serendipitously stumbled onto the pictured glass piece on eBay. My cleverly devised eBay search never did find it, because the seller, an antique dealer from the United Kingdom, had not included any of the important key words like 'Thomas Cains' or even 'encapsulated coin'. Nonetheless, I spotted the item when it was first listed, and plotted how I might add it to my half dime exonumia collection. The seller offered little information about the piece, except to say that it contained an "1840 United States half dime". She described it as "cut glass" on a "star cut foot". She was obviously unaware that it was, in fact, a New Orleans issue, a Valentine 1840-O V4 No Drapery die marriage, a die marriage that is neither common nor rare. My reference collection contained fully six examples of this die marriage in various die states, but my highest grade example was only EF-40.

The glass piece is 3-¼" tall and 1-5/8" in diameter, except at the base where it expands to 1-7/8" in diameter. It is made entirely of clear, transparent glass, and looked, to my untrained eye, like it might be a candlestick, although one other observer thought it might be an inkwell minus its stopper. I decided that, rather than render an amateur, and therefore a likely erroneous opinion, myself, I would defer any determinations regarding the glassware to my favorite expert, and sent pictures and a description to Brenda Logan for her learned input. Brenda observed that the base is pressed glass, the hollow knop containing the half dime is, of necessity, blown glass, and the top portion is also pressed glass. She described that the three pieces were each made separately, and then joined together using a small blob of molten glass. Perhaps most interesting of her learned observations, at least to me, was that the piece is likely not made by Thomas Cains and the Phoenix Glass Works, in Boston, but is more likely of English or Irish manufacture. Apparently Thomas Cains was not the only glass blower possessing the skills to encapsulate a coin inside a glass knop, although he was one of only a very few in America; this skill was more widely seen in Europe. She also suggested that the piece was likely not a candlestick, as the neck at the top was smaller in diameter than the inside body of the piece.

If it were a candlestick, the inside would exhibit a gentle taper from the mouth to the bottom of the interior, to support the candlestick upright. This piece has a smaller inside diameter at the mouth than that of the interior, suggesting that it might be a scent bottle, made for holding perfume. Indeed, the neck exhibits a ground glass surface, typical of bottles with stoppers. Of course, this would mean that it is missing the stopper, which might also have had a hollow knop, with yet another coin inside. Brenda further offered that there were no known glass manufacturers in Louisiana at that time, but there were perfume manufacturers who might have shipped coins to a European glass manufacturer for inclusion in their perfume bottles.

Of greatest interest to a half dime collector, of course, is the 1840-O No Drapery V4 half dime contained within the knop. Although it is not a Bust half dime, I felt that it would still be appropriate to publish in the JR Journal, and of interest to early Federal coin collectors. It appears to be in borderline mint state condition, or what I would grade AU-58, with only the very slightest rub evident on the highest points of the design (Miss Liberty's beasts and thigh). There are no marks, dings or other distractions of any description, and the surfaces exhibit what must be considered truly "original" color. The coin has been encapsulated in a totally sealed environment for nearly 170 years, subjected only to less than four cubic centimeters of air. There may also have been minor amounts of byproducts emitted from the molten glass, but by volume these would have been extremely minor compared to the amount of silver in the coin, and have left no evidence on the coin's surface. This has to be one of the best examples of an "original" coin, with unmolested surfaces, available today. It is unlikely that any 'coin doctor' altered the coin's appearance before encapsulating it within the glass. The geometry of the inside of the glass sphere ensures that the coin's surfaces have not been touched by the glass, although the coin is free to rotate around inside the knop. There is evidence of the edge reeding of the coin impressed on the inside of the glass, indicating that the glass was hot when the coin was inserted, as would be expected in the glass blowing process.

This is a fascinating piece of history, decidedly numismatically related, which provides us some insight into what 'original' surfaces must have looked like. As Russ Logan aptly wrote in his 1999 JRJ article, "The color and texture of this coin is very much different than the best of the claimed "original" coins".

My sincere thanks and appreciation to Brenda Logan for her learned insight on the early American glass piece, and to Victoria Millington, of Mill Court Antiques, for providing the photographs, and for providing me the opportunity to acquire this fascinating and historic piece.

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Brockages and Brockagemakers among the Capped Bust Halves

Henry R. Hilgard

Introduction. When a blank planchet enters the coining chamber of a screw press, it is normally struck simultaneously by the hammer and anvil dies and is then ejected. However, if the blank planchet enters the coining chamber and lands on top of an already-struck coin that has failed to eject, it will receive a hit from the hammer die, but its other side will receive an incuse impression from the already-struck coin that sits on the anvil die. This coin, with the incuse impression from being struck against an already-struck coin, is known as a brockage. If the obverse is the hammer die, the brockage coin will show a normal obverse on one side and an incuse, reversed impression of an obverse on the other.

Brockages. The majority of capped bust half (CBH) brockages were recognized as mistakes by mint employees and were corrected by putting them back into the coining chamber to be struck again so that they would look reasonably normal. However, there are 2 known CBH brockages that were not corrected by restriking: the one illustrated here showing 1831 obverse 7 on one side and an incuse impression of obverse 7 on the other (Figure 1), and a second one that has 1826 reverse K on one side and an incuse impression of reverse K on the other side.

Figure 1. Brockage of 1831 Obverse 7

Corrected brockages (those that have been corrected by being struck again) also provide useful material for study because the second strike frequently did not completely eradicate the first brockage strike. For example, the incuse stars on the obverse of this double struck 1814 O-104 (Figure 2) indicate that the first strike was a brockage of the obverse, and careful inspection of the reverse of this coin also

shows clear evidence of the first strike by the obverse die. All of the half dozen or so corrected brockages known to me are brockages of the obverse, indicating that the obverse was the hammer die during their striking.

Figure 2. Obverse of 1814 O-104 showing Incuse Stars from First Brockage Strike

Brockagemakers. What about the coins that created the brockages, the brockagemakers? These are the coins that were sitting in the coining chamber when the brockages were struck. A brockagemaker will have been struck twice, first normally, after which it failed to be ejected from the coining chamber. Then during its second strike it will receive a second hit by the anvil die, but instead of encountering the hammer die for a second time it will have been struck against the blank planchet that became the brockage. We would expect this encounter with the blank planchet to cause the brockagemaker's central design to spread out, and perhaps the entire planchet to spread out as well, becoming larger in diameter.

Figure 3. Obverse of 1817 O-112 Brockagemaker on Left and Normal 1817 O-112 on Right

In Figure 3 the obverse of a brockagemaker 1817 O-112 is on the left, next to the obverse of a normal 1817 O-112. They were both scanned at the same time, and

hopefully the reader can recognize that the portrait of Miss Liberty is larger (actually about 4% larger) on the brockagemaker than on the normal coin. The coin itself is also larger in diameter (34 mm) than the normal coin (32.5 mm), and the portrait and the stars have become somewhat flattened. The brockagemaker shows the expected double striking on the reverse (Figure 4), and it has rotated clockwise by about 75 degrees between the first and second strikes, producing a coincidental 50C/UNI feature (Figure 5).

Figure 4. Reverse of 1817 O-112 Brockagemaker

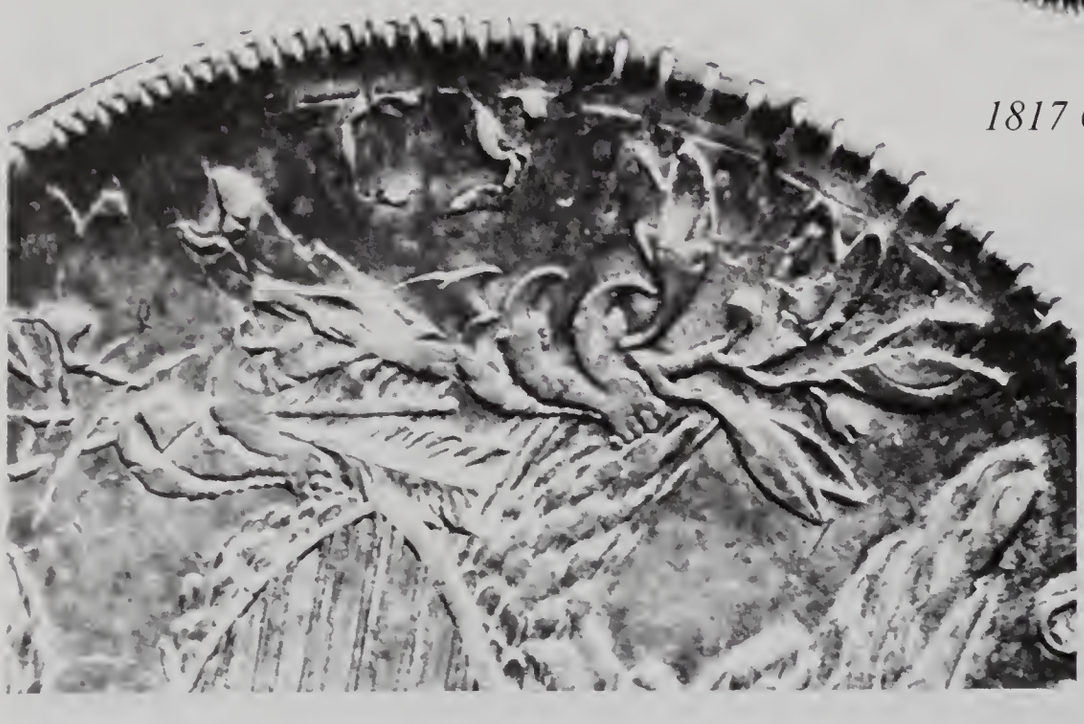


Figure 5.
50C/UNI on the reverse of 1817 O-112 Brockagemaker

The dominant reverse image is from the second strike. A second brockagemaker is an 1812 O-110 that was lot 2292 in the sale of Russell Logan's half dollars[2]. An analysis of this coin reveals features almost identical to those of the 1817 brockagemaker, including a 34 mm diameter (versus the standard 32.5 mm), a spreading out and flattening of Miss Liberty's portrait, and (to my surprise) a 75 degree clockwise rotation between strikes.

Because the central design of a brockagemaker is spread out, we would expect the central design of a brockage to also be spread out. And in fact, the image of Miss Liberty is about 3% larger than normal on the brockage side of the 1831 obverse 7, a determination that was made by scanning the brockage together with a normal obverse 7 from an 1831 O-111, and then enlarging the scan to facilitate measurement of the portraits of Miss Liberty on the 2 coins.

Discussion. Although only a small difference, Miss Liberty's portrait on the 1817 brockagemaker has spread out somewhat more (4%) than has the incuse image of Miss Liberty on the 1831 brockage (3%). One possible explanation for this difference is that the strike from the screw press was weaker during the creation of the 1831 brockage. A weaker strike in 1831 might also account for some of the weak detail on the brockage portrait of Miss Liberty, where wear would be unlikely to account for weak central detail because Miss Liberty's incuse portrait is at a low point on the coin.

The large diameters (34 mm) of the 1812 and 1817 brockagemakers may cast light on the nature of the "open collars" that were used during the striking of the CBHs. Neither of these brockagemakers shows any evidence of being squeezed by a collar, as their is no noticeable flattening of their edges or edge lettering. While it is possible that the collar wasn't functional when these pieces were struck, there's no reason to think that they wouldn't have fit into a collar because they were presumably a normal 32.5 mm diameter prior to the second striking. However, if the brockagemakers were surrounded by a solid circular collar during striking, the collar had to be at least a mm or two larger than 34 mm diameter, and such a large collar would probably not center normal 32.5 mm planchets properly for striking.

So what are the alternatives to a solid, circular collar? Perhaps the collar was circular but consisted of more than one piece, opening out to receive the planchet from the feeder finger, and then closing around the planchet during striking with the help of springs. Indeed, collars in sections were known in Europe prior to the striking of CBHs, although those described in Cooper[3] were built for the purpose of imparting edge lettering. Another possibility, proposed by John Dannreuther in a recent discussion is that the "open collar" was actually more like a "half collar": semicircular in shape and truly open at one side. In this scenario the feeder finger mechanism would have the job of pushing the planchet up against the semicircular collar prior to striking. Hopefully a contemporary description of an open collar will someday be found to settle the matter once and for all.

All CBH corrected brockages known to me are brockages of an obverse. In fact, the only brockage of a reverse I know of, corrected or otherwise, is the 1826 reverse K

mentioned earlier. This preponderance of obverse brockages means that the obverse was usually the hammer die for these coins. The more frequent use of the obverse as the hammer die in this series is consistent with evidence derived from the study of other error types: off center coins[4], misaligned die coins[5], and those with "tracks" indicating an earlier hit from a hammer die.

And finally, wouldn't it be amazing to find the brockagemaker that goes with the 1831 brockage, or the brockage that was created by the 1817 brockagemaker? Why not look for an 1831 O-111 with spread out obverse features and a double struck reverse, or an 1817 O-112 that is a corrected brockage? They could be lurking out there waiting to be found.

References:

1. Bowers and Merena Galleries, The James D. Brilliant and William R. Sieck Collections, January 9-10, 1992, lot #408.

2. Bowers and Merena Galleries, The Collections of Russell J. Logan & Gilbert G. Steinberg, November 6-9, 2002, lot # 2292.

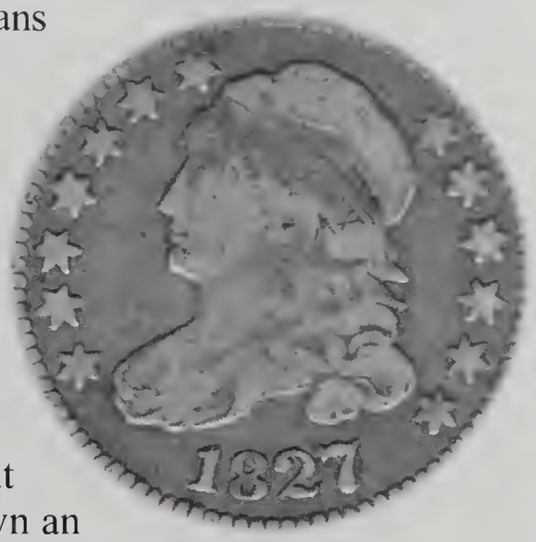
3. Denis R. Cooper, The Art and Craft of Coinmaking, Spink & Son, 1988, p. 132 and pp. 171-173.

4. Chris Pilliod, What Error Coins Can Teach Us about Die Settings, The Numismatist, Volume 109, Number 4, April 1996, pp. 401-408.

5. Henry Hilgard, Reverse Die as Hammer Die: Evidence from a Mint Error, John Reich Journal, Volume 17 / Issue 2, August 2006, pp. 33-34.

Book on 1827 JR-2 Dimes

Jim Koenings

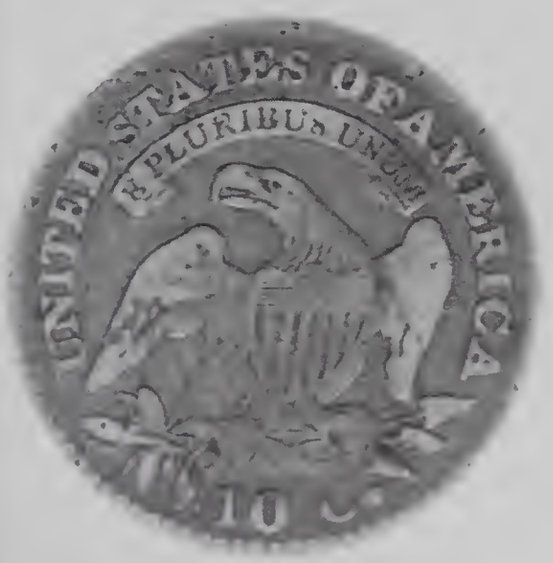


After spending several months accumulating photos or scans of 1827 JR-2 Dimes from various JRCS members and non-members, I am now in the final stages of preparing to write the book. So far the response has been fantastic and I have well over the original number I had hoped to find. This coin has been underrated for years and I am hoping to make it as famous as the 1829 Curl Base 2 Dime.

In the March, 2009 Dime Census, 22 specimens were reported, but only 13 were listed by JRCS number. That leaves 9 owned by unknown JRCS members. If you own an 1827 JR-2 (in any condition), I want to hear from you. Please send your photos or scans to **bustcoin1@verizon.net**.

Currently, I am trying to account for specimens that were reported in some of the early dime censuses. Some of these members may have passed away. In particular, I would like to hear from JRCS members who might have purchased an 1827 JR-2 that was owned by JRCS #008 and JRCS #010. Also, if you purchased the Lovejoy coin, sold by Stack's in October, 1990 or the Subjack coin, sold by Stack's in December, 1992, I would like to improve the scans that I have from Stack's catalogs. A couple of years ago, one member sold his F-12 coin to J. D. Enterprises, if you own this coin, I would like to hear from you. If you own the VG-8 coin once owned by Larry Blackwelder, I would also like to hear from you.

Besides sending your scans, I would appreciate any pedigree information you can provide and I would like permission to use your name in my book, unless you prefer to use your JRCS number. If you would like your 1827 JR-2 illustrated in my book, please send an email to **bustcoin1@verizon.net** or you can mail photos to :



Jim Koenings
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Riverside, CA 92516

Two members have sent their coins to me, insured or registered, so I could scan them and return them insured or registered. Any member who sends me his coin through the mail, will also receive a complimentary copy of the book when it is printed.

New Condition Census 1832 LM-9.1 Capped Bust Half Dime

Richard Meaney

I recently had the good fortune to get Kathryn, my four year old daughter, to sleep early on a Tuesday night. Taking her to the park to play with other children for more than three hours seemed to do the trick! Kathryn's early bedtime gave me the opportunity to spend some time on the internet reading about and browsing available coins. Like many who collect by die marriage, I checked ebay and the web sites of specialist dealers like Brian Greer, Rich Uhrich, and Dick Osburn. Nothing for me tonight, I thought. Then I noticed a bookmark/ favorite in my internet browser that I had not checked for some time, maybe a month or more. I clicked on it and went to the section for half dimes. I saw one NGC MS-66* (the NGC star designation, per the NGC web site, identifies coins with exceptional eye appeal or characteristics that distinguish them from other coins of the same technical grade) capped bust half dime emblazoned with "NEW" so I clicked to learn more. When I viewed the images online, I couldn't believe what I saw. At first glance, I thought I was looking at an 1832 LM-9.1/V-14 half dime – an R-6 die marriage! The coin was NOT attributed by the seller and was offered at type price. Of course, I then tried to convince myself that I was mistaken and the coin had to be the easier-to-find 1832 LM-8/V-5 die marriage. After all, rare die marriages don't suddenly become available in NGC MS-66* holders every day of the week. After careful assessment of the images, I concluded it was indeed the rare 1832 LM-9.1/V-14 die marriage. I filled out the online shopping cart and bought the coin.

The next morning, I called the seller to ensure my order went through. The customer service agent informed me that mine was one of a few orders for that coin, but since mine was first it would be the one they honored. Prior to the coin's arrival the next day, I talked and corresponded with at least five other JRCS members about the coin. My initial thought was that this coin may be the Stew Witham coin (Lot #324, Rarcoa Central States Numismatic Society Auction of the Harley Freeman Collection, May, 1977) that was described as "Gem Brilliant Uncirculated." It would have been very cool to own the Witham example of this die remarriage; after all, he discovered the die marriage in 1963! The coin arrived via Express Mail two days after I ordered it. My first reaction was that the pictures used by the seller did not do the coin justice. Luster is wonderful.

Fields are smooth, mark-free, and Proof-like. The die clashing is extraordinary and the die cracks evident on the coin are a sight to behold. I found a light mark on Liberty's cheek, but for the most part, the coin is flawless (i.e. as minted). Further research told me that it was not the Witham coin. I compared the photo plate in he Rarcoa auction catalog to my new coin. The Witham coin did not demonstrate severe die clashing on the reverse that nearly obliterated the letters BUS of PLURIBUS in the scroll – and my coin has the severe clash. Instead, my coin was a "newly-discovered" finest known example of the die marriage. With help from my JRCS friends, I determined that the top four coins in the condition census for the 1832 LM-9.1 capped bust half dime should now read: MS-66* (my new purchase), MS-65 (Witham coin, whereabouts unknown), MS-60 (owned by a JRCS member), and AU-58 (owned by another JRCS member and also ex-Mark Smith and ex-Russell Logan that was used as the plate coin in "Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837" by Russell Logan and John McCloskey, page 214). The rarity, beauty, and importance of this half dime, along with the sharing of information with fellow JRCS members, have made the addition of this coin a memorable experience that I will likely never forget.

Bust Quarter Census

Glenn R. Peterson, MD

Welcome to the 2009 Bust Quarter Census. Our last census was Volume 17 / issue 3 in December 2006. Earlier that year the Jules Reiver Collection came up for auction and was auctioned by Heritage Galleries. After the last census the Charlton Meyer collection was dispersed to eager collectors. Charlton, or "Swampy" as some of his friends called him, had assembled the only complete collection of all Bust Quarters by die marriage. These collections represent pinnacles of numismatic achievement and are referenced in tables 3 and 4 of this article. Since the last census, Steve Tompkins has published Early United States Quarters 1796-1838. This excellent reference contains much new information about Mint history, patterns, restrikes, errors, hub changes and many new details about die states of Bust Quarters. Dedicated collectors are encouraged to obtain a copy for their library. Another reference remains in the final stage of preparation by Rory Rea, Glenn Peterson and Brad Karoleff. Numerous collectors have contributed to these numismatic volumes and their contributions are greatly appreciated.

Some 1815 and 1825 B2 quarters were counterstamped "E" and "L". Much has been written about theories of their manufacture and will not be repeated here. Some, but not all, collectors reported their "E" and "L" coins and they will be listed in table one.

1825 B1 "L" Counterstamp

Bust Quarter Census

June 2009

Year	B#	Rarity	589	323	726	1068	LM44	869	853	48	LM56	1029	1054	1195	TOT RPD	AVG	MAX
1796	1	4+	8										1		2	5	8
	2	3	8			3	4		3				10		7	6	10
1804	1	3	12	8	45	6	12		25	3		20	35		13	18	45
	2	5	8	10	3	3	4		3	3			4		8	5	10
1805	1	4+	18	10	45	6	15	8	12	15		40	58		14	23	58
	2	2	40	35	55	8	12	8	4	6		55	53		15	28	55
	3	2	8	8	40	6	15			4		50	30		9	20	50
	4	4-	30	4	30	4	20	8		4		4	62		13	18	62
	5	5+	20	10	30	4	10		4	8			20		10	13	30
1806	1	2	20	6	12	4	20	12	30	4		20	55		12	18	55
	2	2	18	12	15	4	12	10	10	6			25		11	12	25
	3	1	40	8	50	6	12	8	35	6		55	12		12	23	55
	4	4-	18	6	53	8	20	8		15			45		12	22	53
	5	4+	40	35	55	10	25	20	10	8		8	58		16	27	58
	6	5	20	20	35	6	8	8	12	8		45	55		12	22	55
	7	5	30	55	58	8	8	8		4		58	25		10	28	58
	8	6	30	8	6		7			3			50		6	17	50
	9	1	15	8	50	3	20	8		6		4	50		10	18	50
	10	5	35	12	53	8	12	6	4	3		25	15		15	17	53
1807	1	2	45	4	35	6	20	10	20	4		58	63		15	27	63
	2	3	25	6	55	8	4	6	8	12		25	61		12	21	61
1815	1	1	58	20	58	15	20	12	35	4	55	53	12	55	29	33	58
1815E			50	58	58			50						58	5	55	58
1815L				55	58				58					45	4	54	58
1818	1	2	62	12	55	15	4	10		10	15		15	55	17	25	62
	2	1	50	12	50	30	10	20	58	10	25	55	50	55	18	35	58
	3	3	50	12	55	20	6	12		20	15			58	11	28	58
	4	3	62	8	55	4	8	8	30	20	20	40	50	58	20	30	62
	5	4+	40	12	50	15	8	10	45	25	8	45	3	55	14	26	55
	6	4+	15	12	35	6	8	15	20	8	12	55	3	58	17	21	58
	7	4+	45	8	45	30	15	8	4	10	15	6	15	50	17	21	50
	8	3	50	20	55	30	8	12	12	2	8			55	16	25	55
	9	4+	30	10	40	3	10	4	20	8	12		40	58	15	21	58
	10	3	45	12	45	30	20	8	12	4	8		15	58	17	23	58
1819	1	5-	25	30	40	30	20	6	8	10	25	58		55	16	28	58
	2	3	50	8	10	35	6	12	15	4	20	45	62	55	19	27	62
	3	1	20	10	50	20	8	10	10	8	20	15		58	17	21	58
	4	4+	50	8	35	10	8	4	10	10	30	45	35	58	18	25	58

Year	B#	Rarity	589	323	726	1068	LM44	869	853	48	LM56	1029	1054	1195	TOT RPD	AVG	MAX
1820	1	4+	40	10	30	20	30	12	45	8	35		45	58	15	30	58
	2	2	45	20	50	30	12	10	30		15	50	12	58	14	30	58
	3	3	20	8	61	30	8	12	20		15		20	55	13	25	61
	4	2	20	8	55	20	8	15	35	8	12			58	14	24	58
	5	5	40	10	30	4	4	4	4		15	12	8	53	16	17	53
1821	1	2	30	12	40	20	20	15		6	20	62		55	13	28	62
	2	5	30	15	45	20		12	10	6	25	61		50	11	27	61
	3	2	40	15	55	20	15	8	45	15	20	45	50	58	17	32	58
	4	3	45	55	45	12	20	20	30	10	8	63	12	58	20	32	63
	5	4+	63	10	55	20		10		4	30			55	10	31	63
	6	7	30	3										20	3	18	30
1822	1	2	35	25	40	20	15	15	30	6	12		8	55	16	24	55
	2	5	8	8	30	4	6						6	58	7	17	58
1823	1	6			20								8	50	3	26	50
1824	1	3	40	40	55	8	30	10	30	15	8	58	50	53	17	33	58
1825	1	5	18	20	30	10	8	6	20	8	6	58	58	55	16	25	58
	2	2	35	20	58	20	35	8	30	10	15	20	12	55	31	27	58
1825E			55	55	50									58	4	55	58
1825L			40	50	50		58		45					55	6	50	58
	3	3	35	15	58	30	15	20	12	3	18	25	53	58	19	29	58
1827	1	7												62	1	62	62
	2	6+													1		0
1828	1	1	63	45	50	15	8	8	10	10	18	50	12	58	17	29	63
	2	5-	55	8	58	15	20	8	20	8	10	63	50	58	15	31	63
	3	5-	35	10	55	3	6	8	8	8	3		15	50	13	18	55
	4	3	50	20	30	30	12	12	12	15	15			50	14	25	50
1831	1	3	40	35	58	40	15	25	20	4	30	58			14	33	58
	2	2	40	40	50	30	15	35	45	6	35	63			11	36	63
	3	5	48	45	45	12			12	8	35	50			11	32	50
	4	1	40	45	55	45	20	20	30	20	30				14	34	55
	5	2	50	35	58	50	20	20	53		35				11	40	58
	6	3	45	35	55	40	20	12	62		45	62	45		11	42	62
	7	5+	40	12	45	4	7		4		30	45	4		11	21	45
1832	1	2	50	58	58	55	60	40	45	12	45	58			12	48	60
	2	2	45	40	58	50	35	15	30	6	30	58			15	37	58
1833	1	2	45	53	45	40	35	20	45	30	20	63			13	40	63
	2	4-	40	45	55	45	30	12	12		40	58			11	37	58

Year	B#	Rarity	589	323	726	1068	LM44	869	853	48	LM56	1029	1054	1195	TOT RPD	AVG	MAX
1834	1	1	45	45	50	53	20	25	20	6	45	53			13	36	53
	2	4	40	50	50	45		15	40	20	45	58			13	40	58
	3	3	30	55	58	45	40	20	45	20	30	55			13	40	58
	4	1	45	62	55	45	45	20	55	45	40				11	46	62
	5	5	35	35	58	35		25	45	8	35	62	40		12	38	62
1835	1	1	45	35	58	50		25	45		35	55			11	44	58
	2	2	50	55	55	40	10	40	45	10	45	62			15	41	62
	3	4+	40	45	55	25	20	30	20	12	50	58			11	36	58
	4	4	35	30	55	30		30		15	20	50			10	33	55
	5	3	58	40	50	50	20	25	30	30	20	58			15	38	58
	6	3	40	35	55	10	20	35	30	15	35	61	30		14	33	61
	7	2	45	40	50	50	20	40	45	6	40	62	55		15	41	62
	8	5-	40	55	45	50		20	20	40	30	45			11	38	55
1836	1	3	45	50	55	20	35	30	12	30	25	55			14	36	55
	2	2	35	35	58	30	30	30	40	4	18	55			16	34	58
	3	1	35	30	55	30	20	40	45		35	62			13	39	62
	4	4	45	40	45	45	8	35	45	20	35	64			13	38	64
	5	6+	15	15					20		6	45			5	20	45
1837	1	4	40	50	55	45	20		20	8	35	62			13	37	62
	2	1	40	40	55	35	60	25	45		15	53			12	41	60
	3	4	45	40	45	15	30	45	15	20	30	64			12	35	64
	4	3	35	15	40	40	25	20	45	12	40	63			19	34	63
	5	5	50	58	45	53	15	30	6	8	35	62			11	36	62
	6	8	15									12			2	14	15
1838	1	1	50	30	58	45	40	30	55	6	35				15	39	58

	589	323	726	1068	LM44	869	853	48	LM56	1029	1054	1195
Varieties Owned	93	90	89	88	81	79	78	77	69	68	53	38
Average Grade	37	25	47	23	18	17	26	11	25	48	32	55

96 KNOWN DIE MARRIAGES

Charlton Meyer Collection

Grades were recorded from last JRCS census.
There may have been a few changes since the census, but not many.

Year	B#	Grade
1796	1	50
	2	50
1804	1	40
	2	45
1805	1	50
	2	45
	3	45
	4	60
	5	6
1806	1	40
	2	50
	3	50
	4	45
	5	45
	6	25
	7	15
	8	45
	9	35
	10	45
1807	1	50
	2	55
1815	1	55

Year	B#	Grade
1818	1	63
	2	60
	3	50
	4	55
	5	40
	6	50
	7	6
	8	45
	9	58
	10	50
1819	1	50
	2	45
	3	40
	4	12
1820	1	58
	2	55
	3	40
	4	40
	5	50
1821	1	55
	2	50
	3	40
	4	45
	5	45
	6	8

Year	B#	Grade
1822	1	55
	2	58
1823	1	55
1824	1	58
1825	1	20
	2	50
	3	58
1827	1	60
	2	63
1828	1	53
	2	58
	3	63
	4	50
1831	1	55
	2	65
	3	45
	4	60
	5	55
	6	60
	7	20

Charlton Meyer Collection, Cont'd.

Year	B#	Grade
1832	1	60
	2	55
1833	1	50
	2	63
1834	1	45
	2	60
	3	45
	4	40
	5	58

Year	B#	Grade
1835	1	50
	2	55
	3	20
	4	55
	5	50
	6	40
	7	45
	8	45
1836	1	61
	2	62
	3	50
	4	50
	5	10

Year	B#	Grade
1837	1	55
	2	55
	3	40
	4	62
	5	40
	6	12
1838	1	55

Jules Reiver Collection

Heritage Galleries

January 24th - 28th, 2006

Grade is assigned in Heritage Auction Catalog. Only the finest of the die marriage is listed. Some have damage. See catalog for more details.

NOTE: Several die marriages were not listed in the Heritage catalog. When I viewed the Reiver coins, all marriages except 1827 B1, 1827 B2 and 1837 B6 were present.

Year	B#	Grade
1796	1	53
	2	8
1804	1	15
	2	8
1805	1	12
	2	12
	3	45
	4	35
	5	10
1806	1	20
	2	25
	3	45
	4	10
	5	20
	6	35
	7	58
	8	25
	9	50
	10	35
1807	1	30
	2	8
1815	1	50

Year	B#	Grade
1818	1	30
	2	60
	3	50
	4	40
	5	30
	6	58
	7	58
	8	30
	9	25
	10	20
1819	1	55
	2	12
	3	50
	4	45
1820	1	45
	2	45
	3	30
	4	
	5	25
1821	1	40
	2	50
	3	45
	4	45
	5	50
	6	20

Year	B#	Grade
1822	1	40
	2	20
1823	1	4
1824	1	25
1825	1	58
	2	58
	3	50
1827	1	
	2	
1828	1	50
	2	53
	3	58
	4	63
1831	1	58
	2	50
	3	
	4	53
	5	58
	6	55
	7	4

Juled Reiver Collection, Cont'd.

Year	B#	Grade
1832	1	58
	2	45
1833	1	53
	2	50
1834	1	58
	2	58
	3	50
	4	58
	5	50

Year	B#	Grade
1835	1	53
	2	40
	3	40
	4	50
	5	55
	6	50
	7	58
	8	45
1836	1	45
	2	45
	3	62
	4	50
	5	45

Year	B#	Grade
1837	1	53
	2	53
	3	50
	4	58
	5	40
	6	
1838	1	58

Bust Quarter Census By Grade

June 2009

Year	B#	Rarity	AG/G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	Total	Finest
1796	1	4+	1	1						2	8
	2	3	5	2						7	10
1804	1	3	4	2	3	3	1			13	45
	2	5	6	2						8	10
1805	1	4+	2	5	4		2	1		14	58
	2	2	4	3	3	1	1	3		15	55
	3	2	2	3	1	1	1	1		9	50
	4	4-	6	2	1	3			1	13	62
	5	5+	5	2		3				10	30
1806	1	2	3	1	3	4		1		12	55
	2	2	2	4	4	1				11	25
	3	1	3	2	3	1	1	2		12	55
	4	4-	3	2	4	1	1	1		12	53
	5	4+	2	6	2	3	1	2		16	58
	6	5	3	3	1	3	1	1		12	55
	7	5	1	4		2		3		10	58
	8	6	3	1		1		1		6	50
	9	1	4	2	1	1		2		10	50
	10	5	5	2	4	3		1		15	53
1807	1	2	6	1	4	1	1	1	1	15	63
	2	3	4	3	1	2		1	1	12	61
1815	1	1	2	3	5	1	1	17		29	58
1818	1	2	3	2	5	2		4	1	17	62
	2	1	1	2	1	5	1	8		18	58
	3	3	1		5	2		3		11	58
	4	3	1	3	1	3	2	9	1	20	62
	5	4+	1	3	3	2	3	2		14	55
	6	4+	5	3	4	2		3		17	58
	7	4+	3	5	3	2	2	2		17	50
	8	3	2	2	3	3		6		16	55
	9	4+	2	5	2	2	2	2		15	58
	10	3	2	3	4	3	3	2		17	58

Year	B#	Rarity	AG/G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	Total	Finest
1819	1	5-	3	3	1	5	1	3		16	58
	2	3	2	4	3	3	4	2	1	19	62
	3	1	1	6	2	4	2	2		17	58
	4	4+	3	7		3	2	3		18	58
1820	1	4+	1	2	2	5	4	1		15	58
	2	2	1	1	4	3	2	3		14	58
	3	3	1	3	3	4		1	1	13	61
	4	2	1	4	3	4		2		14	58
	5	5	6	3	2	2	2	1		16	53
1821	1	2	2		3	4	1	2	1	13	62
	2	5	2	1	2	3	1	1	1	11	61
	3	2		2	4	3	4	4		17	58
	4	3	1	3	3	4	3	5	1	20	63
	5	4+	1	3	1	2		2	1	10	63
	6	7	1			2				3	30
1822	1	2	1	3	4	6	1	1		16	55
	2	5	3	2		1		1		7	58
1823	1	6		1		1		1		3	50
1824	1	3	2	4	2	3	2	4		17	58
1825	1	5	3	4	1	3	1	4		16	58
	2	2	2	2	5	6	2	14		31	58
	3	3	1	3	5	4		6		19	58
1827	1	7							1	1	62
	2	6+							1	1	63
1828	1	1	1	6	3		1	5	1	17	63
	2	5-	2	4	1	2	1	4	1	15	63
	3	5-	3	5	2	1		2		13	55
	4	3		1	6	4		2	1	14	64
1831	1	3	4		1	5	2	2		14	58
	2	2	1		1	4	3	1	1	11	63
	3	5		1	4	2	3	1		11	50
	4	1		1	1	6	5	1		14	55
	5	2		1		5		4	1	11	65
	6	3			2	2	4	1	2	11	62
	7	5+	6		1	1	3			11	45

Year	B#	Rarity	AG/G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	Total	Finest
1832	1	2			1	1	3	6	1	12	60
	2	2	1		2	5	4	3		15	58
1833	1	2				6	5	1	1	13	63
	2	4-			3	2	4	2		11	58
1834	1	1	1	1		4	4	3		13	53
	2	4	1		2	3	4	3		13	58
	3	3	1		1	5	3	3		13	58
	4	1				2	5	2	2	11	65
	5	5		1	1	6	2	1	1	12	62
1835	1	1				4	4	3		11	58
	2	2		4	1	1	5	3	1	15	62
	3	4+			1	4	3	3		11	58
	4	4		1	1	6		2		10	55
	5	3	1			6	4	4		15	58
	6	3		1	2	8	1	1	1	14	61
	7	2	1	2	1	1	6	3	1	15	62
	8	5-		1		4	4	2		11	55
1836	1	3			2	8	1	3		14	55
	2	2	2		1	9	1	2	1	16	64
	3	1		1		8	2	1	1	13	62
	4	4	2	1		4	5		1	13	64
	5	6+	1		2	1		1		5	45
1837	1	4	1	1		4	4	2	1	13	62
	2	1			1	5	3	2	1	12	60
	3	4			2	5	4		1	12	64
	4	3		1	9	4	4		1	19	63
	5	5	1	1	3	2	1	3		11	62
	6	8			1	1				2	15
1838	1	1	1	1		8	2	3		15	58

Total Reported in all Grades 1,254

Estimated Survival Rates for 1805 Half Dollars

Bradley Higgins

I have long been curious about survival rates for early Federal coinage but was unsure of the sources for the commonly seen figure of 1 to 2%. How were these survival rates arrived at? Are they reliable? Are they just wild guesses or was some method used to arrive at a given figure? Not knowing the answers, I set out to devise a method and seek an answer for 1805 half dollars. Breaking the number down by die marriage seemed to be the best way to proceed.

O.101 is rated R3 in Overton. Any rarity rating that differs from Overton is either the latest opinion of the Bust Half Nut Club or is my own opinion and will be disclosed as such. The middle of this rating will suffice for this die pairing is fairly common. If anyone feels that 'common' and '1805 half dollar' are mutually exclusive, substitute the word 'available' for 'common'. Steve Herrman's "Auction and Mail Bid Prices Realized" (AMBPR) shows 46 appearances of O.101's at major auctions and fixed price lists of certain dealers since 1998 with only one glaring repeat sale, that of the Eliasberg specimen. R3 can be interpreted as 201-500 specimens extant, so the middle point is 350.

O.102 is also rated R3. Herrman's AMBPR shows 58 specimens with no attempt made to weed out repeat appearances. Thus, the same number of 350 will be included.

O.103 is rated R5+ by the BHNC with a range of 31-47. This coincides well with the research of Bryce Brown, which was published in a recent edition of the **John Reich Journal**. AMBPR lists about 20 examples, so 45 will suffice for this purpose.

O.104 is rated R5- by the BHNC with a range of 66-80. AMBPR shows 34 appearances. 70 survivors is a reasonable figure.

1805 O.104 ex:Norweb

O.105 is rated R5 (48-65) with 12 specimens listed in AMBPR. I will include 50.

O.106 is rated R3+ by the BHNC, but with only 11 specimens appearing over the last 5 years, it may be much scarcer. For this purpose 100 specimens will do.

1805 O.106

O.107 is rated R5 by the BHNC with a range of 48-65. My own opinion is that there areprobably about 50 specimens of this die marriage.

O.108 is rated R4+ by the BHNC, so let us take a mid-range number of 100.

O.109 is rated R4 by the BHNC with a range of 120-200. Let us use 160.

O.110 is rated R5 and a middle range number would be 50.

O.111 is very common and rated R2. The range for R2 is 501-1000. A middle point would be 750.

O.112 is an equally common R2, and 750 will also work here.

O.113 is rated R4+ by the BHNC (81-120), so 100 will be used here.

O.114 is only known by 2 examples, and we will count both of them.

This gives us a total of 2,927 half dollars surviving for 1805. With an original mintage of 211,722 this means the survival rate is 1.38%; within the 1-2% often quoted. If the number of survivors of any one die marriage seems too high, re-figure it with 2,500 total survivors for a 1.18% survival rate. Or on the high side, allowing for 4,000 specimens extant yields a 1.89% survival rate. However many 1805 half dollars you feel are left, it is unlikely to exceed 2% of the original mintage. The flip side means that at least 98% of the original mintage has been lost.

worn beyond recognition, or melted down. If you apply that 1.38% rate to each die marriage, the number of originally minted specimens might be as follows:

Die Marriage	Est. Survivors	Est. Orig. Mintage
O.101	350	25,317
O.102	350	25,317
O.103	45	3,255
O.104	70	5,063
O.105	50	3,617
O.106	100	7,233
O.107	50	3,617
O.108	100	7,233
O.109	160	11,573
O.110	50	3,617
O.111	750	54,251
O.112	750	54,251
O.113	100	7,233
O.114	2	145
Total	2,927	211,722

The chart shows that the mint was likely obtaining very low production from most dies in 1805; so low that they realized that some changes in how dies were engineered would need to be made in order to accommodate increased deposits of silver into U.S. coinage and to account for increased coinage of half dollars due to the cessation of dollar production. They resolved at least some of the problems in 1806 with the addition of a frustum atop the cylindrical body of the die. The artifacts caused by catastrophic die failures observed on 1805 halves, namely cuds, disappeared by mid-1806, and die life was extended in 1806 and 1807.

Are the reconstituted mintages of each die pairing listed above reliable? No, there are too many variables and unknowns. Attrition rates are not likely to be consistent among the die marriages.

Die marriages with no known terminal state, O.106, O.107, O.108 and O.114, may once have been very plentiful. Coins displaying especially prominent breaks may have been saved in disproportionate numbers as curiosities. There are very likely some die pairings that are forever lost, and perhaps new discoveries await us. Evidence suggests that some of the dies used to produce marriages with no terminal state may have been retired early but we will likely never know why this occurred and why some were worked until they literally fell apart.

An overview of the surviving 1805 halves shows that these coins circulated extensively. Only two choice uncirculated coins are known for all of 1805, Eliasberg's O.101 (last seen in an NGC 65 slab) and an O.111 listed as 63 in Overton. Even AUs are scarce and are unknown for some marriages, slabbing mill exuberance notwithstanding. Despite the fact that top-quality specimens are essentially unavailable, 1805 half dollars are a terrific collecting project, and a fertile field for further research.

(Author's Note: This paper began as a thread on the PCGS coin forum, and garnered replies from R.W. Julian, Craig Sholley, Steve Tompkins, Bill Nyberg, Roger Burdette and others. It morphed into a discussion on output from coining presses of the era and of die engineering. Some of the comments and corrections have been incorporated herein. I am grateful to all for their comments and participation.)

(Special thanks to Henry Hilgard and Steve Herrman for their advice and assistance.)

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Fun With LDS/Unusual CBH Date Set

Winston Zack

If you're like me and collect coins that differentiate from the norm (LDS's (Late Die Stages), DDO's, CUD's, Off-Center's, Clashed dies, Planchet errors, etc.), but also collect Capped Bust Halves and want to put together a date set, then this article is for you. I personally have been acquiring these interesting coins for the last eight or so years and only recently have I felt obligated to share my insight with the rest of the collecting community (One of those New Year's resolution type things!). For this article, I thought I would start with Bust Halves (written in two parts, due to length) and in future articles write about other Bust denominations.

In starting my Bust Half Date Set (not including RE type), I focused on collecting the early dates first, 1807-1815, as I felt these were the toughest dates to acquire and provided a myriad of interesting LDS's. The second group of dates I focused on were from 1817-1829, as this run of dates provides many interesting die marriages to choose from. The final grouping includes all of the dates in the 1830's, 1830-1836. This final grouping is a challenge in that these dates do not often have interesting LDS's, so substituting for mint-made errors instead of LDS's may need to take place.

From here I will go about describing dates, in sequential order, and share what Die Marriages I feel have the neatest LDS or readily obtainable mint-made error. (By mint-made error I'm talking about: Off-Center's, Planchet Defects, Double Profiles, Strike-Thru's, etc.)

1807 – My choice is the Bearded Goddess O-111a or O-111b; it's a tough variety to acquire (R5), and above F-12 it's very pricey and seldom shows up. I like this variety because it has the most visible die crack for the date and is located in a rather unusual location; plus the nickname is cool.

1808 – My favorite is the O-110a. It has a bold obverse die crack through star 7 to Liberty's chin which resembles a fissure. This coin comes well struck, but is somewhat of a tough variety (R4+) to come by, but with patience a nice example can be found. (I found an example with two Planchet Errors on the reverse (O-104), so that will be my set piece for the mean time. If unusual errors, such as this Planchet defect, can be found instead of sticking to the later die stages of die marriages, then I would recommend acquiring these coins because they only stray that much more from the norm.)

1809 – The O-109b seemed like the no-brainer variety for this date. It has a thick reverse die crack through AMERICA and the Arrows, and comes decently struck. It's somewhat of a tougher variety to locate, R4, but it's again obtainable with some patience.

1810 – This is a tough date to locate with anything interesting taking place. The late die stage of O-101a is probably your best choice for a neat example, and it's only an R1, so it's easily obtainable. There's a dual-die crack on the obverse that runs along the bottom of the date to star 1, and another that runs along the inside part of the left stars, through Liberty's bust and splits in two to end above the date. It's neat, affordable, has a decent strike and is still a wholesome coin.

1811 – Since the overdate is not very strong for this date, I would stick with a normal date and choose the easily obtainable O-109 (R2). Although this variety only has one major die crack, it is quite heavy and splits down the reverse rim to S1, the motto, and the eagle's wing. The strike is also pretty good in high grades, so I feel this should be the variety you would choose when putting together a collection like this.

1812 – I found three varieties of this date that could work for this type of collection (O-106a, O- 109a, and O-110b Single Leaf). Each has its own unique characteristics, but the one I feel stands out above the rest is the O-106a (R2). This terminal die stage shows a long arcing die crack on the obverse from star 6 through the inside folds of Liberty's hair, along with several other smaller die cracks between 4 and 7 o'clock. The reverse on the other hand has a long and narrow, needle-shaped die crack running from N through the eagles beak and ending at the left side of A2. It's a very neat piece which comes fairly weakly struck on the obverse, but the reverse strike is very strong.

1813 – By far the neatest variety for this date is the O-110. Locate the latest die stage you can for optimal obverse clashing, which can occur 3 or more times. You can find this die variety quite easily as it's just an R1, and the strike is often decent.

1814 – This is another date where you can locate several die marriages in the late or terminal die stage that would qualify as choice candidates (O-101a 1814/3 and O-105a Single Leaf), but there's one that truly stands above all the others. Acquiring the O-106a (R4+), terminal die stage, is the hands down best choice for this date, even though locating one may take some time. It has everything you could ask for: heavy die clashing on the obverse and heavy die cracks everywhere on the reverse. The real kicker to this coin is on the reverse where it shows how

the die is just about to fall apart and the fields are separated on two completely different levels. The strike on each side is about as mushy as you can get, so grading these pieces will pose a challenge. A fun and interesting coin that could be the centerpiece of this collection.

1815/2 – Well, you're pretty much stuck with just this one variety. Fortunately, the O-101a shows some heavy die clashing on the reverse, sometimes to the point where you can read LIBERTY on the eagle's lower feathers. There's also a couple of reverse die cracks, but overall we lucked out with this single die marriage date as far as abnormalities go.

1817 – I find the 1817/3 (O-101a) to be the boldest overdate in the CBH series, even in lower grades, and thus the most appealing variety for this date. Aside from the overdate, this variety boasts an arching reverse die crack which runs through the top of "50" in the denomination. The O-101a is fairly common (R2), but retains an expensive price tag in grades above EF.

1818 – This date has a rather peculiar variety with a die crack that is unlike any other in the CBH series. The O-115a exhibits three obverse die cracks, of which one stands out well beyond the other two. This crack extends from the milling near star 13 and shoots straight across the portrait to star 7. As this crack hits the portrait, it creates a narrow fissure across the back of the cheek and neck which makes an incused impression rather than the thin raised die crack lines normally seen.

1819 – For this date, I find that the overdate of O-103a to be the most active in character. For one you have the overdate, but on the latest die stage you also have several arching die cracks that litter the reverse.

1820 – Aside from being a tough date to locate itself, finding an interesting die stage only added to my hassle. It was the feeling of another CBH collector that the O-105a was the neatest, and I must admit that I agree. The obverse exhibits numerous, but light, die cracks which encompass almost every corner. These die cracks are neat since their cracking pattern stems off from each other like branches on a tree.

1821 – My best advice is to locate an example with a double profile or other anomaly. This may seem like I'm taking the easy way out with this date, but searching through die stages of the seven different varieties there was not a single example that was post-typical to me.

1822 – Go with the overdates (O-101 or O-102) again! The overdates aren't bold, but neither are any of the die cracks, etc. It seems that the mint cracked down against worn or broken dies (no pun intended) during this period, or else it's just a coincidence that since 1819 no highly advanced die stages have surfaced.

1823 – For some reason Double Profiles are found quite commonly on this date, most notably on the O-110's, therefore try to locate any example with this characteristic. Aside from the neat aspect of the Double Profile, it comes with either a Perfect or Ugly 3, depending on the die stage.

1824 – Keeping with the overdates, O-103 provides a great mixture of several digits underneath the 4. Later die stages show small cracks and die wear but nothing of great significance. This die marriage also is easy to obtain and often times comes fully struck on each side.

1825 – This date comes riddled with Double Profiles; in fact twelve of the eighteen die marriages have known Double Profiles. Again, I would hold out to find one with this attribute as your set piece.

1826 – I found this date to be the least exciting of the entire CBH date set. None of the die stages showed much if any personality (i.e. die cracks, die wear, other anomalies); I'm sure some may argue otherwise. Therefore, look for a Double Profile or other error as your set piece.

1827 – Well, with 49 varieties you would think it would be easy to locate a neat variety! Well, it was quite easy, in fact the first one I looked at (O-101) got the job done (although I did look at the other 48 varieties!). This variety comes with an overdate, but most importantly the reverse has two arching die cracks starting in approximately the same location on the rim at 8 o'clock. The more advanced the die stage, the stronger the die cracks will show!

1828 – This date was a struggle to locate anything of interest, as has happened for about the last ten CBH dates I have listed. The O-107a is likely the neatest variety for this date, despite its extreme rarity (R7 and has no recorded sale since 2005). It boasts two obverse die cracks: one vertically through the 8 in the date, and the other arcing through the lower bust and connecting to 828.

1829 – It wasn't my purpose to constantly use overdates for this date set, but it seems that these are the most interesting die marriage-die stage combination I have been able to find. The O-102a follows suit with this due to the 1829/7 overdate, but more importantly a vertical die crack streaks through the center of the 9 and into the bust.

1830 – Although the majority of 1830 CBH's are in very good shape as far as strikes go, O-110a is likely the best Overton variety to fit in this type of set. These coins comes with obverse and reverse strikes of worn out dies with both the stars and reverse lettering flowing into the rim. This variety may be troublesome to locate, but then again it's only listed as an R3.

1831 – Almost identical to 1830 above, the O-110a for this date shows similar die wear patters with the obverse stars and reverse lettering flowing into the rim. This variety is also an R3, and tougher to locate than its EDS counterpart.

1832 – O-101a, a Diamond in the Rough for the 1830's dates. This is a very common die marriage/die stage (R1), and is pronounced by a VERY heavy die break on the reverse. The die break extends from the viewers left wing (eagle's right wing) and finishes along the upper olive leaves. Quite neat and easily obtainable in almost any grade.

1833 – A common trend in 1830's CBH's seems to be their consistent strikes with few dies showing their wear. O-103a seems to be the best candidate variety for this type of set in that it too shows die wear in the stars and reverse lettering. A neat variety, but nothing as earth shattering as some of the prior coins.

1834 – This is another tough date in the 1830's to locate something neat. I particularly like the O-106 which has a bold repunched 4. It's not much, but hey it's something.

1835 – I really wish I could tell you that there was a die marriage for this date that showed something more earth shattering than a slightly worn out die, but alas, as is the trend, I cannot. O-101 and O-106 both exhibit similar die wear patterns, but nothing of marginal significance.

1836 – The variety of O-106a provides the viewer with two somewhat pronounced die cracks arcing in the right-half fields. The die crack nearest the center is the most pronounced and stems from the "S" in the motto down through the lower right wing and finishes through the arrows.

To conclude, I've highlighted varieties of different dates with multiple different features. Some features include, but are not limited to, major die cracks, major/multiple die clashes, overdates, double profiles, Planchet defects and die wear. My reasoning behind clumping runs of dates together was simple, similar characteristics.

The dates from 1807-1815 often show coins with much heavier die cracks and die clashes than that of the following two groups. From 1817-1829, these dates portrayed the most double profiles of the three date groups, and also had numerous overdates. The final grouping, 1830- 1836, had the least amount of characteristics of the three groups, although some dates do show significant attributes.

Again, if any of the previous coins have double or triple profiles, planchet defects, and/or adjustment marks etc. add those as your date-set piece if another like coin just doesn't cut it for you. Also, everyone's taste in coins is different, so a lot of these coins may not fit your collecting persona, and that's fine. This was just meant to be a fun and creative way to explore CBH's, and you should make the final decision as to what coins suit you and your collection the most.

1813 O.103 Off Center Error Capped Bust Half Dollar

Retained Cud Found on 1830 JR-2 Dime

Glenn Peterson, MD

I had the good fortune of finding a mint state example of the 1830 JR 2 dime at a coin show in Chattanooga TN. It was sold to me by an experienced JRCS member/ dealer who brought the late die state to my attention. The coin has a number of die cracks and a small die break/ retained cud on the reverse. The retained cud appears under the first S of STATES and above the motto. These cracks and die break are not reported in the Early United States Dimes 1796-1837 written by David Davis et al.

The additional cracks include the following: Obverse: cracks from top of S8-outer points of S9-field between S9 and S10 and bottom of S8- inner points of S9, S10 and S11.

Reverse: It has the described crack from rim-O-S in mottoback of eagle's neck-across shield- right claw-C2 to rim but now another crack forms rim to O. Crack ITE to rim now extends to U of UNITED. The Davis et al reported crack from rim-S1-scroll now has a branch from right side of S1 arching to scroll forming a pie shaped area between S1 and scroll. A die break/ retained cud now raises this pie shaped area well above the plane of the surface of the coin. The described crack form the wing to upper leaf now ascends to T1 and descends in a strong crack alone leaf # 3 (counting clockwise from lowest leaf) to rim. Finally another crack forms from lowest leaf to arrow-feather.

Keep an eye out for other advanced die states and cuds on bust dimes.

LIBERTY
1830

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